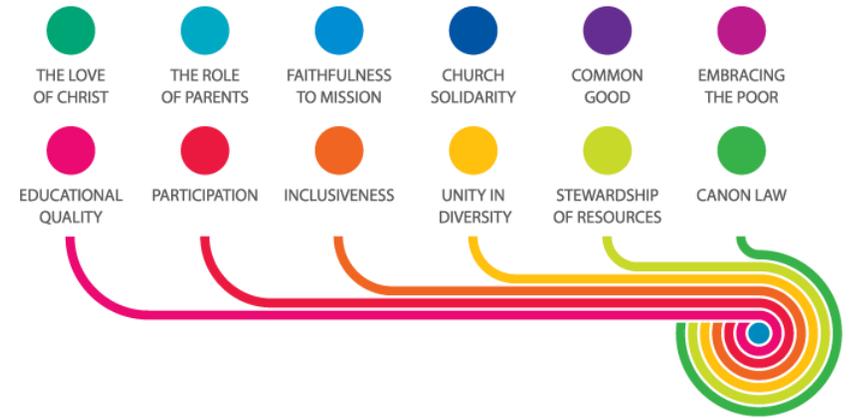




**Better Together**  
Catholic School Advisory Bodies

Engaging, Learning,  
Knowing, Responding



## Unpacking the principles

At a glance:

The twelve principles outlined in the Better Together framework (from the NCEC, 2002) should underpin all the work of advisory school bodies in Catholic schools'. This activity explores the principles so as to develop an understanding of what each principle means for:

- \* individuals
- \* the school advisory body
- \* the school community
- \* the wider contemporary Catholic Church.

Step 1 - IDENTIFY FOCUS:

- Choose one of the principles

Step 2 - EXPLORE:

- What does this principle mean to you personally?

Step 3 - REFLECT:

- How is it reflected in your Catholic school and / or parish community?

Step 4 - RESPOND:

- How is it or will it guide your work as an advisory body?

Step 5 – FOLLOW-UP:

- What is one thing we will do to promote these in our school community?

*HOW TO USE: Individually or as a group, you may like to choose one or two principles that you are least familiar with to explore or in a group divide - up chosen principles to discuss in small groups and then feedback to large group to share insights.*

Document:



NCEC Catholic School Governance Report (2002) [Download](#)

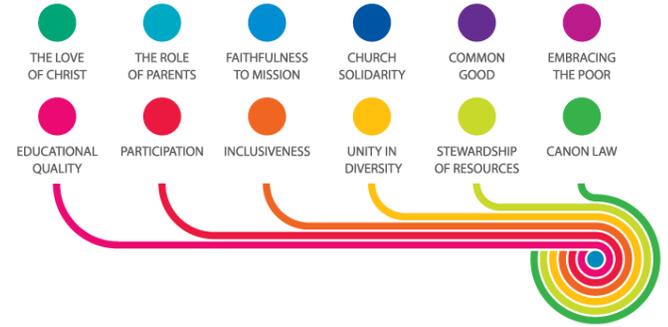


Adapted From *Better Together: Catholic School Advisory Bodies*

[www.btadvisorybodies.catholic.edu.au](http://www.btadvisorybodies.catholic.edu.au)

Guiding Principles for Catholic School Advisory Bodies

# PRINCIPLE



What does this principle mean to me personally?

How is it reflected in our Catholic school community?

How is it or will it guide our work as an advisory body?



What else do we need to know?

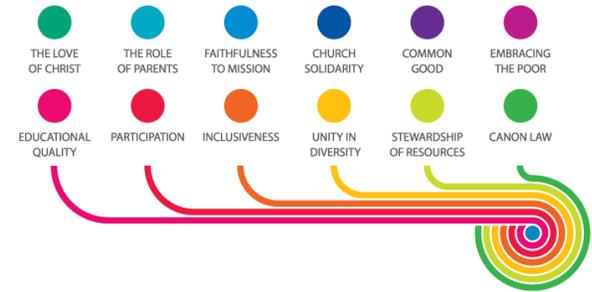
What is 'just-one-thing' we can do this week in our community?





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***The Love of Christ***, which is the fundamental recognition that Catholic education is animated by and based upon the love of Christ for all people.

***The Role of Parents***, as the primary educators of their children, in whose place ( *“in loco parentis”* ) and with whose collaboration, Catholic schools fulfil their mission.

***Faithfulness to the Mission of the Church***, which is the mission of the Christ, to preach the Good News, including fidelity to the teachings of the Church.

***Church solidarity***, which is the obligation of members and agencies of the Church to support those other individuals and agencies of the Church in need, and to work for the good of the whole Church community.

***Support for the common good***, which is the general obligation on members of the Church not only to support the Church, its agencies and members, but also to ensure that the work of the Church and its agencies contribute to the benefit of society as a whole.

***Embracing the poor***, which is the obligation on the Church community to continually assess its actions and policies to ensure that they empower the most disadvantaged and marginalised.

Source: *Fundamental Principles* from  
Catholic School Governance (2002)

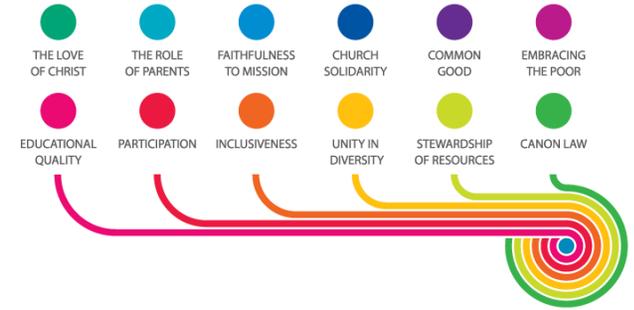


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**Educational Quality**, which is the obligation upon all those involved in Catholic education to strive to provide the highest possible quality of education to those attending Catholic schools.

**Participation**, which is the principle that powers and functions in any community are exercised, wherever possible, by the persons and bodies closest to and most accountable to those affected.

**Inclusiveness**, which is the principle that Catholic education should be open to all those who wish to receive a Catholic education, and that all those engaged in Catholic education in whatever capacity will be welcomed and valued in the pursuit of the educational mission of the Church, to the extent that they support that mission.

**Unity in Diversity**, which is the recognition that the Holy Spirit inspires different communities in different ways, bestowing upon them diverse charisms which provide inspiration for action, all for the same purpose of promoting the Kingdom.

**Stewardship of resources**, which is the obligation of all agencies of the Church to use financial and other resources responsibly, particularly with a view to ensuring the well-being of future generations.

**Rule of Canon Law**, whereby every agency of the Church is constituted and operates in accordance with Canon Law.

Source: *Fundamental Principles* from  
Catholic School Governance (2002)



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